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THE PALMETTO STATE SPARKPLUGGER

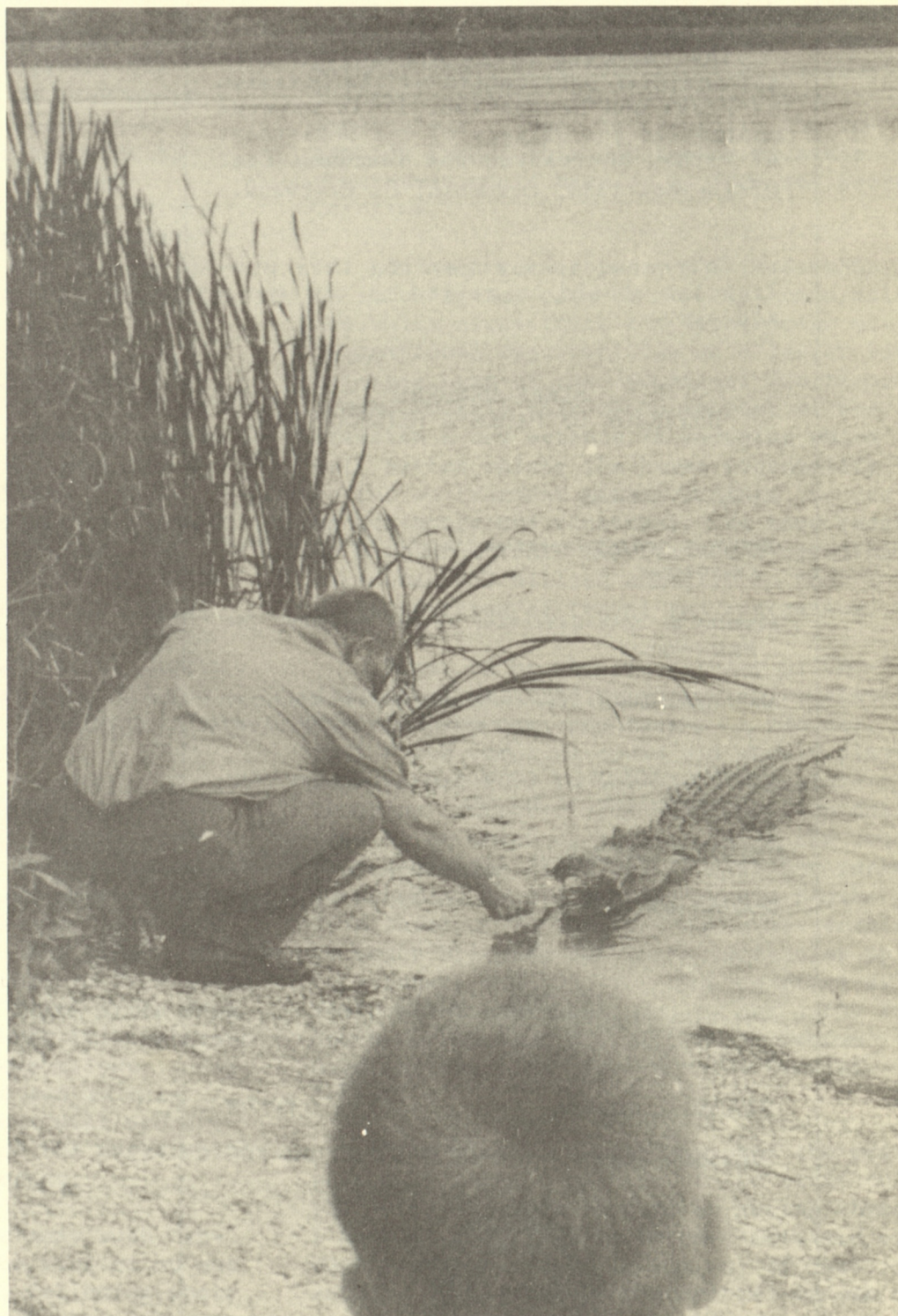
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION

February 1969

Vol. I - No. 8

Cover Photograph
LUNCH TIME

Huntington Beach
State Park



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM

Post Office Box 1358 - Columbia, South Carolina - 29202



THE PALMETTO STATE SPARKPLUGGER

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION

The Palmetto State Sparkplugger is the official publication of the Division of Parks and Recreation. It is printed monthly in the offices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism- Post Office Box 1358, Columbia, S. C.-29202.

Correspondence regarding this publication should be mailed to the above address.

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MILLARD H. OSBORNE *Editor*

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Editorials...

SPARKS FROM THE PARKS.....

The park superintendents are reminded to mail in their copy for the Sparkplugger by the 20th of each month. These accounts of events, news items and observations from the superintendents are appearing under a column titled: "SPARKS FROM THE PARKS". Since the publication is now being circulated widely over the country, the content of the articles should be of both interest and value.

PARK ATTRACTIONS.....

Over at Cheraw State Park we understand at least 200 Canadian geese have stopped over to dine on Strom's corn bread. We are not attempting to goose (McSween's phrase) Bill Lawrence, who heads the Travel-Tourism Division, but it does appear that his Canadian Travel Shows are paying off handsomely---or in a honking fashion. If we were presently wearing a hat, you can bet your life we would pull it off in a well-earned salute to Bill and staff!

Seriously, though, these annual visits of the flocks from Canada, could be promoted into a good tourist attraction for Cheraw State Park---and perhaps others. We have also introduced swans, geese and ducks to Sesquicentennial and these have already attracted wide interest from young and old alike. At Baker Creek State Park the beavers are hard at work felling trees and building dams. A great attraction is this for lovers of nature and animals. We hope the superintendents will protect and develop such facets of the parks which would arouse visitor interest.

Doubtless, there are many such "in-being" attractions for the visitor on our parks. Our parks people, following their own interests and utilizing the parks environment, could well develop additional activities within the system.

Commissioner's Letter...

William Close - 5th Dist.

When I was asked to represent my District as a Commissioner for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, I immediately began to survey my other responsibilities---civic, family and business. Nonetheless, I came to recognize the important impact this new agency of state government could have on my area and South Carolina.

In more recent years the leadership in industry has come to see the human values which necessitate the development of recreational opportunities as a lesser but intergal part of the industrial function. Indeed, within this whole concept of recreation a new science is emerging which will better relate the human personality to the environment and society in the use of off-hours and vacations. We have reached a point wherein Americans are spending more than \$35 billion annually on the whole spectrum of travel and recreation.

Those of us who are serving as Commissioners are finding ourselves constantly reminded, by the very trends of the day, that South Carolina could and should play a much larger role in the whole travel-recreation industry. The multi-million dollar bond issue which recently cleared the courts represents the first real thrust for parks development in the memory of many South Carolinians. We now find ourselves enabled to begin bringing our basic facilities up to standard and initiate such programs as would widen the usefulness of our parks for South Carolinians and help us to become more serious contenders for the tourist dollar.

From time to time I have had the privilege of meeting members of our staff on the parks and look forward to seeing those I have missed. I have become impressed with what I have surveyed in the way of real estate, maintenance and potential on our parks. I believe that together we shall write new and thrilling chapters to the history of South Carolina State Parks.

"DIRECT(OR'S) QUOTES" ---

With the S. C. Supreme Court affirmation of the Lower Court's favorable decision on the General Bond Act of 1968, PRT's Division of Parks and Recreation finds itself at the point we have all hoped and prayed for so long.

Many plans have been made, dreams dreamt and interminable conversations held about what we would or would not --- could or could not --- undertake once this great day arrived.

With this court decision, we shift from talk to action and how each of us in the Division carries out his part of the responsibility thus entrusted to us will determine --- to a very great degree --- the future of the S. C. State Park System.

Compared to some of the huge bond issues of other states for park and recreation purposes, the 6 1/4-million dollars authorized for us may seem to some observers to be an almost inconsequential sum, particularly when the needs of the entire state and park system are understood.

However, when added to hoped-for supplementing funds from several federal agencies, and by making use of both the programs and services offered us by other state and federal units, a really significant step forward in our park development can be taken.

As many of you have already been informed by memo, we are already "gearing up" here at Central Office for as efficient, orderly and systematic approach to our expansion program as possible.

Other personnel changes will undoubtedly be required, as well as additional help, but it is the firm intention of the Commission, the Directorate, and the Staff that the people of South Carolina get full value received from every dollar expended by us. Further, we intend to demonstrate to even the most narrow-minded opponent of parks

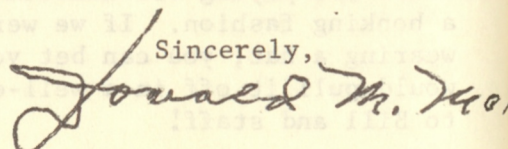
and recreation that this initial expenditure is of such value to the people of the "Palmetto State", its economy and general well-being, as to justify future additional funding at the appropriate time.

We have some of the most beautiful real estate in the country, some of the most dedicated and talented people, and an enthusiasm for the undertaking which I will put up against any state agency --- here or elsewhere. With these ingredients, and the continued support and understanding of the people of the state, I firmly believe we can have one of America's finest park systems within a reasonable number of years.

It cannot be done overnight, nor would we wish it so if it could, but by sound planning and competent execution of those plans, we can attain this goal which everyone in the Division has sought so long.

The old adage states that "the proof is in the pudding" so, from here on out, it is up to us!

Sincerely,

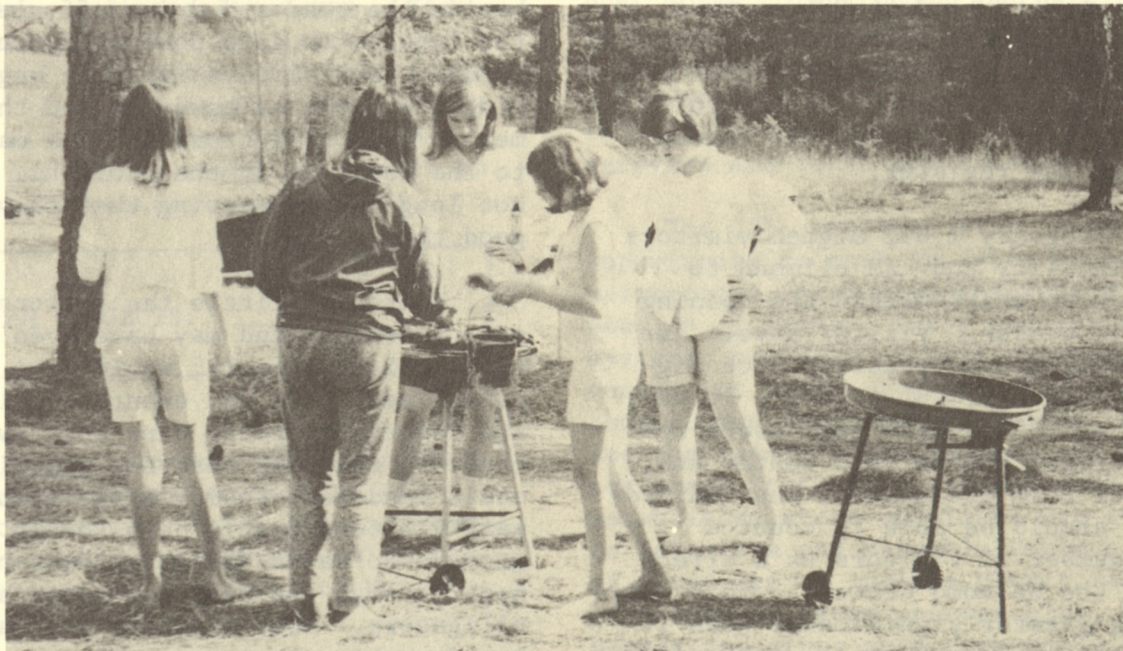


Donald M. McSween
Director
State Parks and Recreation

VARIED ACTIVITIES AT LEE STATE PARK



HOLD YOUR HORSES---Recently twenty-five riders from Bishopville held their second all-day ride on Lee State Park. Superintendent Larry Adair says that he expects the group to continue such outings on the park.



STEW'S ON THE WAY---It's not a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, but it takes several experts to prepare a pot of campfire stew. These are Cadette Scouts whipping out a meal for themselves and the rest of the troop at Lee State Park. The facilities on the state parks are used extensively for this type of group activity.

PRT HEADLINERS.....

TRAVEL SHOWS

Pat Williams, Suzanne Foster and Ann Robinson recently returned from Ohio, having most successfully represented S. C. at the Ohio Valley Sports, Travel and Boat Show.

The Travel and Tourism Division will be representing South Carolina during the next several months at travel shows in the following cities: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cleveland and Indianapolis. The principal object of these shows is to sell the virtues of the Palmetto State as a vacation and recreation area.

(Editor's Note: The editor, last summer, talked with a camping family on Aiken State Park and discovered that they had secured their information on S. C. and Aiken Park while attending the Canadian travel show in Toronto. The family was from New York.)

WELCOME CENTER VISITOR REGISTRATION

From February through last December visitor registration at the Little River Welcome Center totaled 46,206 persons. This figure includes only those who signed the register. Welcome Center use actually runs considerably higher in that many visitors, for various reasons do not sign the register.

Last February 2,092 signed visitors used the facility and had climbed to 6,744 by June, which marked the opening of the main season. Visitor levels for the following months recorded such figures as: July - 9,473, August - 10,427, September - 3,355. Many park users receive information from this center and, when all of them are opened, the individual parks should be able to count a mounting number of visitors as a direct result of the Welcome Centers. This estimate gains greater significance when it is seen that in December alone the visitors were from 37 states and 15 countries.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Gary Womack has been employed in

the Audio-Visual Section of Travel and is already making his talents felt both in the field and in the lab. He was reared near Southern Pines, North Carolina, and is pleased with his new home in the Palmetto State. In fact, in five weeks flat he has rubbed most of the tar from his heels and has become a genuine Sandlapper.

ALLIGATORS.....

Norman Cooler, Superintendent of Huntington Beach State Park, has taken some second thoughts about his pet alligators.

The superintendent had seen several alligators swimming and feeding some distance from the causeway leading to Huntington Beach. Norman looked at the 'gators and commented to himself, "Let's be friends." The park superintendent was more interested in establishing bonds of friendship than were the alligators.

Norman has never been known as one who gave up easily. Each day he would throw several morsels of food on the bank beside the road and drive off, leaving the 'gators to gulp down a dinner so easily found. Several days later he began clapping his hands as he deposited the 'gator-meal. With alligators as with man, the way to the heart is by the stomach. They were not long in discovering that they had a good thing going.

Little by little the 'gators became more trusting, and may have even suspected that Cooler, himself, would make a well-turned meal. In any event the alligator and several recruits were soon swimming so close to the bank that the superintendent could hand-feed them. Large numbers of park visitors beat a path to the feeding grounds to watch Norman throw a hank of meat through the wide-swinging jaws of his alligators. Some visitors even aroused him from his sleep to inquire as to when the next feeding would occur.

The superintendent posted signs in the area, requesting that visitors not disturb or molest his pet reptiles. So many

people were soon visiting the feeding grounds, with only a few throwing objects at them, that the 'gators became distrustful of people.

Several months ago Superintendent Cooler was approaching the area in his official truck, when he saw dead ahead one of his pet alligators sunning himself in the middle of the road. He put his vehicle in low gear and began a slow approach to the 'gator, hoping to drive him back into the water. Instead of turning tail for the brink, he bellowed in a head-long lunge for the truck. He turned his threshing tail on the pickup with a frightful fury, damaging the truck extensively. When the dust finally settled, the 'gator had ambled back into the water - doubtless feeling that he had taught that thing, whatever it was, a good lesson. The drubbing the vehicle had taken was evidenced in smashed grills and dented bumpers. The left fender bore the deep impression of alligator teeth. The 'gator, however, did not leave the scene unscathed for the fight. In the middle of the road he left six inches of his tail and three rusty-looking teeth.

Superintendent Cooler drove back to his residence a disappointed man. Somehow, the alligator had not learned the lesson of not biting the hand that feeds the mouth. In the Central Office and in the field alike, all are thankful that Norman is not now sporting a nub with an alligator only one meal to the good.

MAINSTREAM PROJECTS.....

(Editor's Note: Various CEP Mainstream projects are underway on some of the parks in the state. Major Douglass has written the following article which explains the purpose and scope of Mainstream!)

The CEP Mainstream project, a work training program, is designed to provide a complete and in-depth basic upgrading for the rural disadvantaged eight-county bloc; Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston,

Clarendon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Orangeburg and Williamsburg. The project concentrates many South Carolina agencies, including the Department of Education (Adult Education), Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Office of Economic Opportunity on bringing about a change that is educational, social and economic in the above target areas. For example, the Employment Security Commission is responsible for recruitment and job placement for enrollees.

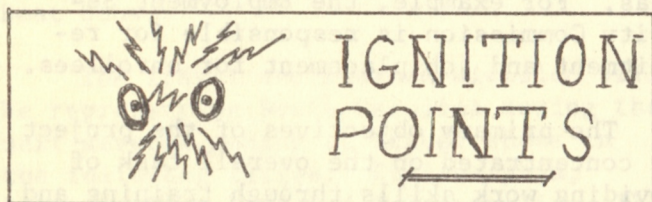
The primary objectives of the project are concentrated on the overall task of providing work skills through training and a significant number of jobs for varying levels of competence for one hundred eighty-five (185) disadvantaged persons, 45 to 55 years of age, 40 hour work week at \$1.60 per hour. It is of equal importance that this project be the means for effecting a general upgrading of the economic environment for the residents of the eight-county bloc.

The average state park contains 1,500 acres and is a self-contained unit with many of the same facilities found in a small city. They have their own sewage, water and sprinkler systems, service buildings, roadways, swimming areas, forest, boat docks, playgrounds and parking lots. Unlike many purely beautification programs, enrollees are given an opportunity for a wide range of work experiences, the counterparts of which are used by private enterprise and local governments.

The 185 enrollees will be given the opportunity to work in every phase of park maintenance, including the repair and expansion of sewage, water and sprinkler systems, building of golf courses, maintenance of roads, conservation work maintenance and development of lake facilities and the repair of buildings. At Huntington Beach State Park, a wood work shop is established where enrollees are trained to fabricate and assemble various types of furniture to include picnic tables, park benches, food storage bins, bulletin boards and other wood components used in parks throughout the state.

It is anticipated that during the twelve (12) months operation of the program, the actual work accomplished by the

Mainstream enrollees, at the wood work shop, landscaping, restoration and conservation work, road maintenance, development of lake facilities, and repair of buildings at various park sites, will amount to approximately \$300,000 worth of park improvements.



BY - ARCHIE HARDY

PARK VISITOR SURVEY CARDS

A new device we recently started using is the visitor survey card. Several parks have been sent a supply of these cards for distribution to out-of-state park users. When they get home they mail them to us, postage paid, with their suggestions and comments. These cards were "discontinued" for use at the Welcome Center, and at the suggestion of Aiken Superintendent Lamar Hodges, we adapted them to park use until such time as we devise our own. As of this writing we have received two each from Huntington Beach and Santee, and one each from Cheraw, Aiken and Myrtle Beach. After due recording at the Central Office, the cards will be returned to the appropriate park.

PLAYGROUND SUGGESTIONS

Marshall Waldt, Kings Mountain State Park, suggested the possible use of large truck tires for inexpensive playground equipment. The tires could be "set" in the ground either flat, upright, or at angles and surrounded by soft sand. Smaller tires could also be used as swings in certain locations. These are especially effective when hung in a flat position so that more than one child can swing at a time. Bill Lamkin adds that large tractor tire innertubes make great water play equipment! When visiting Seattle last fall I observed several "natural" pieces of playground equipment.

They consisted simply of fallen trees, stumps and root systems. A windfall can provide an excellent creative experience for a child, yet costs nothing more than moving it to the proper location.

TREE CROSS-SECTIONS

Janson Cox's article on dendrochronology has brought comments from many park personnel. Several suggested the use of a locally cut tree for interpretation. Superintendent Larry Adair and Ranger Allen Harris of Lee State Park are already "curing" a six-inch cross section with over 130 rings! Make sure that the one you slice has at least 110 rings on it, please. That way we can provide the park user with an interpretive calendar to include the civil war period through the present.

CAMPERS GALORE

Much interest in State Park camping has been demonstrated by the NCHA clubs inviting this writer to speak and show slides. In every case the local park superintendent has been asked to attend to answer local questions. Enthusiasm is high for the upcoming campvention at Rocks Pond in July where over 6,000 families are expected. Overflow before and after the campvention is expected to flood our state park campgrounds from the mountains to the sea.

REASSIGNMENTS

RAYMOND M. SISK - from Assistant to the Director for Maintenance to Construction Coordinator.

WILLIAM JONES - from Supervisor of Maintenance to Assistant to the Director for Maintenance.

LLOYD KING - from Superintendent of Greenwood State Park to Maintenance Supervisor.

ANDREW S. KENNEDY - from Senior Ranger to Superintendent of Greenwood State Park.

ADDITIONS

GEORGE F. BAUGHMAN - Ranger at Baker Creek.

JAMES W. SWEAT - Ranger at Givhans Ferry.

WILLIAM T. MUISE - Assistant Pier Manager at Myrtle Beach.
TONY A. BARRINGER - Foreman at Sesquicentennial.
FRED H. BELK - Caretaker at Rose Hill.
PAUL G. IRWIN - Foreman at Hunting Island.

SEPARATIONS

ROBERT G. WANNAMAKER - Ranger at Givhans Ferry.
CHARLES H. EASTMAN - Park Engineer in Columbia Office.
LeROY HARRINGTON - Foreman at Cheraw.
WENDEL C. COVINGTON - Foreman at Cheraw.
MARVIN W. HYATT - Caretaker at Rose Hill.
HAROLD HINSON - Foreman at Sesquicentennial.

INTERPRETATION.....
BY - JANSON COX

INTERPRETATION? In the past several months we have been exposed to this mouthful of letters. The word has been used rather loosely but at times with restraint; nevertheless, it keeps cropping up as a "pat answer" to questions concerning various aspects of our Parks' program.

The Editor of the Sparkplugger asked if I would briefly expound on my meaning of interpretation.

As I think of interpretation the most striking illustration is the old man who use to sit in the barber shop and tell about days and events long past - those days before anyone in town remembered.

His stories came to life and we all lived them again with his telling. The simple fact that a great event took place was of no consequence and made little impression. Our imaginations and attentions were excited beyond description at the more trifling detailed events. Little did we know that what he was doing was interpreting our town in the stories he told.

He was not simply conveying information for the sake of knowledge; but he was revealing something of greater value - an understanding of the

underlying facts. As the ole man created the whole story, he pared away the minor details and drove straight toward the perfection of his story. As he continued all his listeners walked along with him and at some point it became our story as much as his.

Interpretation consists of bringing material together in a logical pattern, dropping the wealth of details that cannot possibly be associated. Combined with physical items, our Park visitors will be exposed to an adventure that involves their personality, experience and ideals.

Since we are unable to have interpreters speaking to our visitors, we must rely upon leaving a message for them. Usually this will be in the form of a label, plaque or exhibit. Hopefully, the message will project itself directly into the personality of the visitor and make him feel a connection with what he sees. The better the connection between the message and the visitor, the happier he will be. Consequently, we could say happiness is interpretation!

Whether the Park be the unspoiled seashore, an archeological ruin, a battlefield, a nature trail, or a historic preservation -- the visitor is seeking an association that will team-up and give him personal happiness and satisfaction. That is INTERPRETATION.

* * *

FUNNYBONE

* * *

A minister was a dinner guest in the home of splended family, just moved into the town. The parson was somewhat absent of mind and realized he had forgotten his host's name. He picked out a vowel at random and said, "By the way, my good man, I believe you spell your name with an "e", don't you?"

Host: "Oh, no sir! Just H-i-l-l."



SPARKS FROM THE PARKS

ANDREW JACKSON - CECIL HAYES

Visitation at the park has decreased due to the cold weather, but with a nice warm museum there has not been a day this winter that we did not have some visitors including Mr. Janson Cox and Carlee McLendon of Columbia, also Ex. Gov. Scott of North Carolina who was on his way to Lancaster to speak to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

In his speech he told the group that he had stopped by Andrew Jackson State Park and read what was said about where Andrew Jackson was born. The chief executive said, "I saw the huge statue of a boy on a horse, while in North Carolina we have a general on a horse, but if Bill Close will build a couple more mills in North Carolina we'll give South Carolina Andrew Jackson."

Bird watchers are enjoying the birds; it seems we see more than we did last summer, and it's a joy to see the squirrels running the rail fences. The latest addition to the wildlife family is, believe it or not, a couple of deer.

BARNWELL - BEA ROSS

Quiet Christmas - quiet New Years - we had begun to think that people thought we had Hong Kong flu and were avoiding us. We found out that the flu was all on the outside of the park. So far we have all missed taking it.

The new cover of the SPARKPLUGGER is very interesting and informative. It came at a most appropriate time of the year - new year - new look.

Thank you Mr. McSween for my uniforms. They arrived Christmas and I am so proud of them. Carroll Zissette, park ranger, asked me to thank you for the tie clasp, so again, thank you.

A marine with his family from Beaufort is camping this week end.

They spent most of Saturday fishing and hiking. The marine's wife said that originally they were from the state of Washington and were very proud of their state parks, but this park was the "tidiest and neatest" that she had ever seen. I informed her that I had a good park ranger.

Harvey Grubbs, our NYC boy, comes in for his share of praise too. He raked and cleaned the nature trail last week. The temperature was 35° - 40° but Harvey said "not too cold".

We are wishing for Mr. Sisk the very best in his new job as Construction Coordinator, but don't forget to come down to see us.

My son, D. I. Ross, Jr., has been appointed South Carolina chairman of the 1969 March of Dimes for the second time in two years, 1968 and 1969. I do not usually do this, but I am proud that he is working for a good cause, so if a volunteer for the March of Dimes comes to your area please remember what it is for.

CHERAW - STORM BAILEY

I would like to congratulate the office on the new look of "Sparks from the Parks". I'm sure all are as proud of this new image as I am. My only problem is to find news interesting enough for this new publication.

This is the time of the year for light use by the public and heavy work by the staff, and Cheraw is no different. We're beginning to shift into second gear with the work program, although we're hampered by a shortage of staff personnel.

The park has been approached by a local group to start an archery range. They have formed themselves into a club, and are seeking affiliation with a national organization. Believe me, the enthusiasm is high, and we're looking forward to adding this range to the park recreation program. We feel this range will

not only attract the club members but interest the public as well in this sport.

I've read with a great deal of interest the introduction of the swans and ducks at Sesquicentennial State Park. I'm sure they add a great deal to the beauty of the park, but I wish all of you could see the Canadian Geese on our lake here at Cheraw. They start coming in November and usually stay until March, and there are no words to describe the beauty of a flock of these majestic birds breaking flight and settling to the water, their honking reverberating across the lake. We have begun to spread feed on the banks and it seems the numbers have increased lately. We have counted 200 birds feeding at one time but the number of birds usually ranges around the 100 mark. I'm sure all the lakes in the parks have these seasonal visitors, and I feel we should publicize their presence. Cheraw's use always picks up when the word gets out the geese are on the lakes. I'm always surprised when I learn how many people there are who have never seen a Wild Canadian Honker.

I mentioned last issue that I felt there should be a slide projector and slides available to each park, so the superintendents would have this material to help in their public relations. I have talked to three garden clubs in the past month as well as to several service clubs and believe me I could have used something of this nature. These projectors would also increase the opportunities of the parks to present our "pitch". I've noticed there is generally a shortage of programs and speakers available to garden clubs, service clubs and the like, and when it becomes known that the different parks have a slide program I'm sure the demand for this presentation would soon justify any expenditures involved.

LITTLE PEE DEE - LAFON NORTON

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty."

These words were written by an eighteenth century poet about a Greek vase he had picked up. Then he went on to say:

"That is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."

I first read these words in 1927, while in school. Since that time I have heard them used many times by people making a point and more recently by the "Make America Beautiful" people. I would like to use them to point out some of the beauty at Little Pee Dee State Park, beauty that is unaltered by man - natural beauty.

From the kitchen window of the residence, looking east, one may view many longleaf pines (*pinus palustris*), in fact the house is surrounded by longleaf pine and there are some other trees such as holly, oak, cedar, dogwood, etc. The pines are my favorite tree, tall, straight, majestic and are quite useful to mankind. I know of no other tree that can furnish so many useful items to or for people.

It is truly restful and relaxing to listen to the wind blowing through the needles of these beautiful trees and to see and hear the chatter of the birds as they stop for a little while to gather a few more insects before going on to the swamp and their nesting grounds. One of the most beautiful sights is sunrise and the beginning of another day. The golden color with sunlight glistening on the bark and on the needles is true beauty without a doubt. If only I had the words that Dr. Archibald Rutledge or Paul Harvey would have to describe this kind of truth and beauty, perhaps I could make my point more realistic. In simple language, and I think that is what John Keats was saying, God in His wonderful way has given us so many wonders of nature to use, to see and enjoy.

As I sit here, nursing the flu bug, feeling pretty terrible, it occurred to me that perhaps I might feel a little better if something could be said about some of the beauty, beauty that is truth, at Little Pee Dee State Park.

Who knows, maybe I'll get the lift that Larry Adair gets when he reads what Storm Bailey and I write.

Note to Editor: What happened to my last release? (Editor= your clipping is in this issue---space factor.)

MYRTLE BEACH - TED BARBIE

We've really had some projects underway during the past thirty days. These include remodeling the pier concession, new decking for the end of the pier, tiling one restroom in the camping area, installing roofs over the showers in the camping area, remodeling our main work shop, which included paneling the overhead, installing peg board for tools, and rewiring. The work shop project is one of the best improvements that we've made in a long time.

Cabin reservations are coming in fast and all five cabins are reserved for Canadians beginning on March 15th.

Sure hope we have some pretty weather ahead for February as we have a lot of painting to do yet.

Mr. Editor, we would appreciate some new literature for our bulletin board, which is made from one sheet of 4 x 8 plywood. This bulletin board has a pitched roof, lighted for night time reading and this information can be placed on both sides.

Congratulations to Ray Sisk and Bill Jones on their new appointments.

OCONEE - BOB COTHRAN

The lake at Oconee is now ready for ice skating. For several days now the entire lake has been frozen from about 3 inches around the edge to a thin layer out in the middle. Although we have not had much snow, we had one of the earliest that many of the old timers can remember. On November 8 we had about 3 inches and then on November 10 we had another 4 inches.

On January 7 seven local craftsmen met here at Oconee with Archie Hardy to discuss a possible crafts program for the summer. We were glad to see so many different types of crafts and all of them from the local area. I understand that this was just a few of the many more in Oconee County. No definite decision was made; however, the interest is very high and we will be looking forward to having a crafts building here at Oconee soon.

PARIS MOUNTAIN - EDDIE MILLER

Seems it becomes more difficult each month during the off season to find something of interest to write about, so thank you, Mr. Editor and hurry with the guidelines.

My garbage dump is located on the back side of the park and to get to it you have to go out of the park and use a county road. Because of this we keep a chain gate at the entrance. The other day my ranger was over there and he found where someone had just about cut through the chain with a hacksaw. How about that? Trying to break into a garbage dump. Must have had a load of hot garbage.

Thanks Archie for the supply of nature trail booklets. The trail has been completed and I hope with some nice weather this week end we will be able to put them to use. I have put a notice in each of my bulletin boards of this and its location.

It has been very cold here for the last several weeks. I think the lowest reading was around 18 degrees. The lake has quite a bit of ice on it but lacks a lot being frozen solid. In my time I have seen it frozen completely over and to my horror have had ice skaters.

I received a letter January 10, 1969 from a couple in Covington, Louisiana. We all like these "pat on the back" letters and appreciate them very much, but the unique thing about this letter was that they camped here in August 1968 and were still enjoying their thoughts of it in January 1969.

We have really been busy since January 2, 1969 taking reservations for this summer. I got lost January 1 as I knew that phone would be ringing all day and I wanted to see those ball games. On January 2 my phone started ringing bright and early, and at the end of the day my wife and I had made 48 reservations. These reunions are annual affairs and the old timers up here know that if they don't make the reservation early they will not get the date or shelter they want.

My wife and I thank you all for the many kind expressions we received about

Bobby going to Vietnam. In case any of you might find the time to drop him a note this is his address:

PFC Robert L. Miller 2461696
Div. Adj. Sec. (Awards)
Hq. Bn. 1st Marine Div. FMF
F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96602

PLEASANT RIDGE - LEROY SMITH

There is not much to write about at this time. Due to the extremely cold days recently things here at Pleasant Ridge are sort of quiet. We have had a few visitors riding up to view the frozen lake. There were about a dozen ducks on the lake before it was frozen over, but we haven't seen them since. I guess they moved on to a warmer climate. We had a low of 8 degrees here at Pleasant Ridge on January 6, 1969.

Sorry I didn't get anything in for last month. Just about the time I was planning to send something I got the flu, or the flu got me, and I didn't feel like writing anything.

In trying to make things pleasant for tourists and visitors in our parks I think we do it as part of our duty, not for praise or a pat on the back. However, we do appreciate the holiday greetings and notes of thanks from persons letting us know they enjoyed their stay at our parks. Enclosed are two such notes that we received along with Christmas greetings. Thanks to the Lind and Westlake families for remembering us.

The Westlakes have a son at Furman University. They came down from New York for the Furman homecoming and rented one of the cabins for the weekend. They were impressed with the hospitality shown them in and around Greenville and through South Carolina.

* * *

FUNNYBONE

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The bride and groom were approaching the honeymoon hotel when she tickled him under the chin and said, "Let's not let them know we just got married...make um think we've been married a long time." Groom: "Great! Good idea! You take the suitcases in!"

POINSETT - JOE F. WATSON

Our little newsletter has grown into quite a magazine. We look forward to the SPARKPLUGGER here and I get worried if it is a day late.

Now that the holidays and leave taking are over our work program is getting back to normal. James Washington accumulated so much leave time I had almost forgotten he worked here.

We have a bird feeder by our den window and this cold weather has been bringing them in. I counted 17 different kinds of birds here one morning. Those of you who do not have a feeder this time of year are missing a treat. Speaking of bird feeders, we have a nice feeder down near the bathhouse but no budget for feed.

The guest list at Poinsett this month included Jim Rhinehart and family, George Holder, Wayne Mathias, Bill Lamkin, Janson Cox, and Archie Hardy.

SANTEE - JIM RINEHART

Like most every park this time of the year, Santee's activities are a bit slow. However, with the passage of the bond issue finally, we hope that soon some of the activities and improvements planned for this park will start becoming a reality. There has been so much talk and discussion for so long that it still seems almost unbelievable that money is at last available.

In answer to Joe Frank's question last month about receipts, I don't think there will ever be a week when some money isn't taken in at Santee. Our camping has been sporadic since cold weather set in but is still in evidence and the boat landing has averaged almost \$100 a week. Without any doubt, that is our main attraction this winter. Maybe when all the new cabins, camp sites and other facilities are built we won't have to depend on the landing to carry the entire park.

Speaking of the boat landing reminds me that the most excitement we've had around here occurred down there. One cold, windy day a couple of duck hunters turned their boat over but managed to grab a snag as their craft was going down. Mr. Shelton

Edwards, landing manager, heard their cries for help and managed to get to them before they froze completely. Lucky for them that he had his motor on one of the park boats and could reach them so quickly. This rescue stirred up about as big a commotion as the car that burned up in the woods behind the landing last fall.

SESQUICENTENNIAL - PEARCE THOMSON

Things are right quiet around here now. We have plenty of work to do and not too many people now, though they never completely stop. Yes, Joe Watson, in the year and a half I've been at Sesqui, we have had some receipts every week. It's gotten small a couple of times, but always something. This winter, there have only been two or three nights without at least one camper in the family camping area.

A new program at Fort Jackson, Project Transition, is going to help us a great deal. This program takes Army men who are retiring in a couple of months and lets them work on jobs of interest to them a half day every day as a sort of training project. Also, it lets the man see if he really does like a certain type of work. We already have one man, Sgt. Bill Hewitt, on the program and he's been a big help so far. The man is not obligated to us and we are not obligated to the man as far as employment after the end of the program. The man gets his regular pay during the program and it doesn't cost us a thing.

We recently had our genial personnel and property man, J. C. Huggins, Jr., out for a day checking our equipment inventory and putting little stickers with numbers on just about everything except the swans and geese. I think he'd have put them there if the birds had cooperated.

FUNNYBONE

The elderly gentleman dropped to his knees before a pretty young miss and said, "Martha, I have two questions I want to ask you; first, will you marry me?"

Young Miss: "Yes, Jim, I will. And

now what was the second thing you wanted to ask me?"

Elderly Gentlemen: "Martha, would you help me get up?"

(Editor's Note: That one went over as lead balloons with weights on them.)

Pluggers.....

We were mentioned in "Around the World", a newsletter by the Wayfareres Club, New York City. Must have been a camper who spent the night here.

The following is a clipping from the newsletter and was sent to me by Mr. Spencer, VP, S.C. National Bank, Dillon:

"DILLON: Just 11 miles south-east of here on South Carolina's highway 57 are the scattered sand dunes of Little Pee Dee State Park, an area once covered by the sea. Bream and bass fishing are great. But we just like the name!"

Superintendent LaFon Norton
Little Pee Dee

HERE'S AN IDEA

Why not have an inventory sheet for off season cabin users to sign accepting responsibility for the cabin and its contents.

The park superintendent is usually hard pressed to find fresh appropriate material for bulletin boards. Any help from the office would be appreciated.

Superintendent Joe F. Watson
Poinsett State Park

(Editor's Note: We hope to have bulletin board materials ready for distribution to the parks by opening date. Yours is a point well taken.)

NOTE TO PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Dear Mr. Miller and Staff:

My husband, the family and I would like very much to thank you all for making our stay at "Paris Mountain" a very wonderful one - one we will not ever forget... We found a newspaper clipping from a very, very nice write-up on your park and have been showing it to our friends.

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Steinbaum
Covington, Louisiana

BARNWELL PARK COMMENDED

(Plugged, if you please, Ed)

Dear Mrs. Ross:

Mrs. Heim and I wish to commend you for the beautiful Barnwell State Park, and it is exceptionally well maintained... Ranger Carroll Zissetta was most courteous and helpful, adding to the enjoyment of our stay.

S. F. Heim
Benton Harbor, Michigan

TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Dear Archie,

Thanks for putting me on the mailing list for "Sparkplugger" and congratulations for this fine newsletter... In your November issue of "Sparks from the Parks" you offer free booklets describing nature trails in your parks. Would you please send me these publications?

Sincerely,

Richard A. Tapply, Director
Dept. of Resources & Econ. Dev.
Concord, New Hampshire

PLEASANT RIDGE STATE PARK

Dear Superintendent Smith:

We would like to express our thanks once again for the fine way you treated us in arranging and enabling us to park our travel trailer for the night of August 17.

We would like to say that this small park was one of the nicest and best maintained we have ever been in despite obvious limited funds.

Very truly yours,

Richard E. Lind
Livonia, Michigan

POINSETT AT DAWN

The heater's on, the coffee is hot.
Ah! What aroma emits from the pot.
Everything is still out in the yard.
Nothing is moving to be seen by this bard.
One little star is all that remains
Dancing and twinkling as though insane.
The silent pines stand so tall
With cones full of seeds ready to fall.
Like a park visitor with litter to strew
Came Old Jack Frost with a job to do.
Over in the east the sky is red
And I remember what grandmother said,
"Red at night, sailors delight
Red in the morning, sailors warning."
If granny is wrong I'll work with the crew,
But if she is right it's bookwork I'll do.

By: Joe Watson

(Editor's Note: We never cease to be amazed at what comes to the surface from the parks. We had recognized Joe Watson at Poinsett for being gifted in many areas, but one would have never suspected his poetic ability. Rave on ye bard of old!)

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FUNNYBONE

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Superintendent Ted Barbie is known everywhere as an unseasonably truthful man. He would rather be caught shot than lying.

He reports that fishing was so good on his pier at Myrtle Beach last summer than it got to be downright complicated. His visitors were catching fish so fast, according to him, they were leaving holes in the water. He had to impress two lifeguards into the duty of filling up the holes with water buckets.

For Weary Men

"Forests are made for weary men
That they may find their souls again,
And little leaves are hung on trees
To whisper of old memories;
And trails with cedar shadows black
Are placed there just to lead men back
Beyond the pitfalls of success
To boyhood peace and happiness."

-- Selected.

Invitation

Come to the forest woodland,
The woodland sweet and wild,
Come to the forest woodland
And be again a child.
There with the buds and flowers
The butterflies and bees,
Wander in shadowy bowers
Made by the whispering trees.

-- Author Unknown

I believe our world would be a better place in which to live if more adults had not outgrown the many fine qualities which marked their childhood....

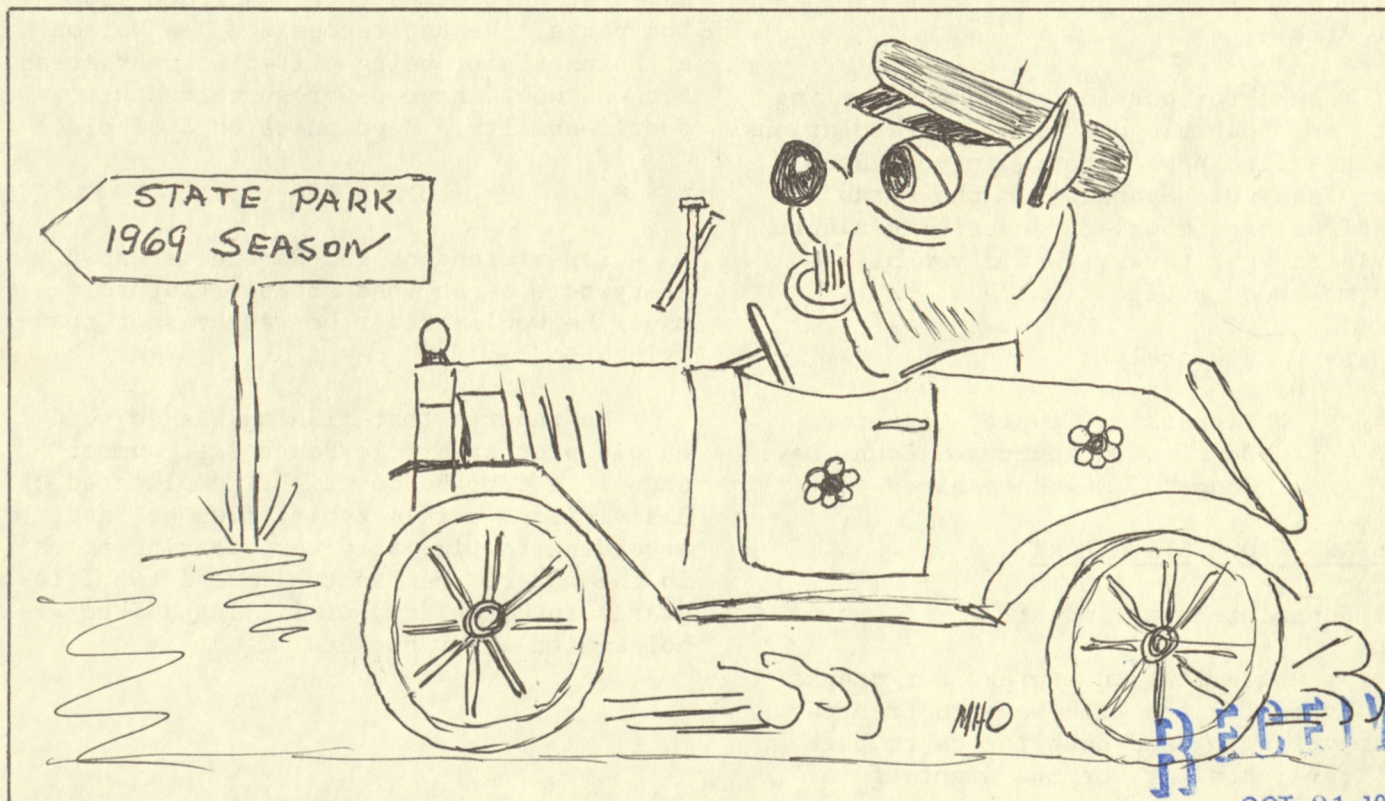
A prominent pediatrician...was recently complimented on his ability not only to treat the diseases of children but also to win their confidence. He reflected in his response the wisdom and experience of thirty years in his medical practice: "At heart I am still a child, for I have never permitted myself to grow up."

While most of us add greater complexity to a society already in the mire of difficult living, it is refreshing to find one who dares live and practice his profession by such a disarming philosophy.

Most "mature" people are drawn into the rat race to become something else, and little about them is able to get through the hard veneer of the false and superficial.

-- Millard H. Osborne

(From an anthology, Young In Heart, edited by Virginia Bass.)



OCT 31 1969